

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following new paragraph:

FIG. 2 is a graphical presentation of how a rate-matching algorithm 102 is invoked in a hybrid ARQ system in accordance with the present invention. It will be assumed that the size of the packet being retransmitted is identical to the size of the packet previously transmitted. As shown in FIG. 2, the initial value of the algorithm depends on the number of retransmissions made. FIG. 2 also illustrates other transport multiplexing chains 101 and ~~402~~103.